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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY International/USSR

SUBJECT Soviet Personalities and Papers at the Sixth International Cancer Congress, Sao Paulo, Brazil

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- Four Soviet cancer specialists attended the Sixth International Cancer Congress in Sao Paulo. Although they presented papers, their names were not listed either in the program of the congress or in the list of delegates who were expected to attend. I caught the name of only one of them, which was Professor A I Savitski. He was introduced as the "Director of the Institute of Oncology" which was, in turn, stated to be a branch of some other institute, the name of which I do not recall.
- The four Soviets spoke in Russian and, at the end of their talks, gave rather vague and general answers to questions, through interpreters. They did not participate in any social functions or group discussions. They appeared to be under the general supervision of two sharp Semitic-looking women who were, I heard, members of the Communist Party of Brazil. The general subject matter of the four papers presented by the Soviet delegates concerned cancer prevention. A good deal of propaganda in the nature of a glorification of Soviet medicine was mixed into the papers. From a scientific standpoint their papers were not impressive inasmuch as they contained numerous extravagant claims which were inadequately supported by clinical data. For example, the Soviets claimed that by means of their cancer detection examinations, they have largely eliminated mortality from pelvic cancer in women. They did not, however, define the group of women reported on, nor did they describe any new technique of examination or give any details of the actual examinations conducted. Their answers to questions shed no light on either of these points. I infer that the Soviets are using the same method of examination in efforts to detect pelvic cancer as those used in the US. If so, their success is almost unbelievable unless they were working with an extremely limited and selected group of patients.
- Similarly, the Soviets made extravagant claims concerning the ratio of recoveries from operations for stomach cancer. Their results, which claim to cover a period of five years, were approximately five times more favorable

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- 2 -

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than those attained in any place in the western world. I consider these statements unpersuasive because of the lack of clinical data adduced, because of the vagueness of the Soviets' response to questions from the floor, and because no suggestion was contained in any of the papers that new techniques had been discovered or adopted.

[Available on loan from the CIA Library is a program and list of delegates of the Sixth International Cancer Congress held in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on 23-29 Jul 54. The program contains summaries of a number of the papers presented and is printed in English, French and Portuguese.]

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